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update

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UNDP launches CAPACITY 21—a $100 million environment initiative

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) approved CAPACITY 21, an initiative to support developing countries in the preparation and management of their own sustainable development plans. UNDP and the Government of Canada committed initial funding, while Japan and other governments are giving active consideration to contributions. Funding is expected to reach $100 million by the end of this year.

The recent United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro called on countries to integrate environmental considerations into all development activities and to prepare sustainable development strategies.

Agenda 21, which was adopted at the Conference, provides a global action guideline for sustainable development. UNDP's CAPACITY 21 initiative will help translate Agenda 21 into effective national programmes by helping to build the needed expertise and institutional means for developing countries to comply with the commitments made at Rio.

CAPACITY 21 will help countries formulate and improve their own policies and legislation in support of the environment and sustainable development. It will focus on human resources training, and strengthening key regional and national institutions, such as universities, research centres, governmental offices and non-governmental offices. In addition, CAPACITY 21 will assist in the exchange of environmentally-sound technologies, and improve the capabilities of countries to utilize these technologies.

The initiative is designed to make the best possible use of United Nations agencies, regional institutions and other partners, including non-governmental organizations.

The CAPACITY 21 initiative emerged from UNDP country needs assessments made in preparation for the environment conference in Rio. The studies showed that the lack of national capacities to formulate and implement environmental policies could prove to be a major obstacle in making sustainable development work.

UNDP stays active in war-torn Somalia

Despite the political instability in Somalia, UNDP has been able to provide technical support to the water supply and sewage system in Mogadiscio. In addition, UNDP has been funding one airplane to transport United Nations' and non-governmental organizations' staff between Mogadiscio, Hargeisa, Nairobi, and Djibouti. Flying since last year, this plane has also been carrying medicines, vaccines and food on a regular basis. Beginning in September, this service will be carried out by two planes.

UNDP has a small staff stationed in Mogadiscio, which supports the work of the UN Special Coordinator for Humanitarian Operations. UNDP is also part of the UN offices in Hargeisa, Berbera and Borao. It stands ready to actively support humanitarian efforts in Somalia, and is prepared to launch rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, including de-mining of the northwest region.

Promoting private sector partnership in basic education

UNDP has initiated a new programme to promote private sector involvement in basic education in developing countries. Its first step in forging such partnerships is to identify existing alliances between the private sector and basic educational systems. In the future, these models may be copied in other countries.

In Zimbabwe, for example, members of the Rotary Club started a programme for primary and secondary school teachers who need English language training. The emphasis is on improving communications between students and teachers, and training teachers for student group work. In Argentina, employees of local businesses are going directly into the classroom to teach second graders basic business concepts, and to instill in them social responsibility in business endeavors.

Increasingly, businesses around the world are offering financial resources, apprenticeships, volunteer tutors and advisers to develop curriculum. Their contribution enhances educational opportunities, and in the long run, improves the skills of students who will eventually become part of a more productive work force.

The UNDP programme is geared toward stimulating new partnerships and exploiting this growing interest of businesses in basic education. The UNDP programme will help share information of successful business and education partnerships worldwide. To expand its reach, UNDP is cooper-

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projects approved: **Jobs for Cambodian refugees • Economic planning reform for Lao PDR • Palau refines development plan • Improved water and sanitation services for Pacific • Community-based HIV/AIDS programmes • Short-term consultancies for sustainable development • Making human development work • Bolstering private sector initiatives**

ating with organizations representing the private sector, such as the International Chamber of Commerce, and the Industry Council for Development.

Any examples of private/public sector partnerships in basic education in developing countries, can be sent to UNDP's Human Resources Group, ATTN: Jafar Javan, One UN Plaza, DC1-2041, New York, NY 10017, USA.

New funds for research to bolster world's fish resources

UNDP's Global and Interregional Programme will provide $4.4 million over the next five years for continued pioneering research into the Genetic Improvement of Farmed Tilapias (GIFT). The aim is to increase the quantity and quality of fish protein consumed in low income rural and urban populations in tropical developing countries.

Fish provide the primary source of animal protein for more than one billion people in the developing world. Because many traditional fishing grounds are heavily exploited and some wild stocks are in danger of extinction, aquaculture will play an increasingly important role in enhancing the world's fish supply.

Many countries are desperately in need of improved fish breeds and more trained personnel to manage aquaculture stocks. To date, there is no sustained applied breeding programme anywhere in the tropical developing world.

Through project support, the International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) in the Philippines will develop new methods for producing improved breeds of tilapia and other finfish. These stocks will then be used to supply fish seed to fish farmers in Asia. Requests for improved breeds have already been received from Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam. National scientists in close collaboration with the GIFT project team will conduct wider testing of these improved breeds. These scientists will be trained by the GIFT project team.

TOKTEN programme totals 3,800 consultancies

The number of consultancies carried out under UNDP's Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) programme has reached a total of more than 3,800, including the participation of 32 developing countries. The programme, to which UNDP has contributed more than $16 million, traditionally peaks during the summer months, as many consultants take advantage of summer vacations from the universities or research institutions with which they are affiliated to carry out these assignments.

TOKTEN brings high-level expatriates who have permanently settled abroad back to their countries of origin for short-term consultancies. UNDP covers airfare and living expenses, and the consultants donate their services out of a sense of loyalty to their home countries.

Education programme seeks innovative approaches to primary schooling

UNDP's Global and Interregional Programme financed a collaborative programme with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to identify and document successful alternatives to primary schooling and innovations in primary education. The project runs for the next 18 months.

The long-term aim is to exchange information and promising new approaches to basic education. A network of education specialists from developing countries will be created, along with an information exchange system.

This recent initiative is part of UNDP's commitment to help carry out the Jomtien Declaration of the 1990 World Conference on Education for All. The goal is to meet the world's basic learning needs by the year 2000.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Cambodia —UNDP and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) are currently preparing an extensive employment generating programme. The programme will help returning refugees to find employment opportunities following their resettlement. The preparatory stage will consist of a publicity campaign to make potential beneficiaries aware of the programme. Sixty engineering supervisors, 16 engineers and 48 technicians will be trained for the management of the labour-based activities. The project will identify the sites for vocational training.

UNDP contribution: $901,516. Funds will provide coordinators for small enterprise promotion, vocational training. Training, equipment, and engineering specialists will also be provided. Executed by ILO and implemented by the Supreme National Council of Cambodia. (CMB/92/020)

Lao PDR—UNDP has been providing support to the implementation of various reforms, including foreign investment promotion, privatization of state-owned enterprises and legal restructuring. Technical assistance will be provided to strengthen the capabilities of the government in economic planning, policy analysis and coordination, public investment programming, budgeting, accounting and debt management. The Ministry of Economic Planning and Financing will be reorganized.

UNDP contribution: $1,500,000. Support services from the Asian Development Bank (AsDB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (IBRD): $108,890. Funds will be used for equipment, a programme manager, and experts in financial management, policy analysis, debt management, and public accounting. Executed by the

Ministry of Economy, Planning and Finance (MEPF). Implemented by MEPF, IBRD, IMF, AsDB. (LAO/92/001)

Palau—As a Trust Territory, Palau has been largely dependent on the United States for the funding of most of its operating and development budgets. During Palau's most recent referendum, Palauans voted in favour of termination of the Trusteeship and the acceptance of a US offer which would allow the country to become self-sustaining.

Under this joint project, UNDP and the US Government will help Palau to formulate, adopt, implement and monitor a national master development plan. This plan will provide the basis for future public and private development. Public infrastructure projects will be outlined, along with legislation for safeguarding the environment. This plan will provide the governmental framework needed when the Trusteeship ends.

UNDP contribution: $350,000. US Department of the Interior: $350,000. Funds will be used for subcontractors to produce the master plan and initiate the necessary training for the plan. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services. Implemented by the Office of Planning and Statistics. (TTP/92/001)

Regional Projects

RAF/92/304—In close collaboration with UNICEF and the UN Capital Development Fund, this project will establish national policies for sustainable water and sanitation development in the Asia and Pacific Region. Regional institutions will be strengthened to carry out more efficient and effective water and sanitation services to Pacific island countries. More formal coordination mechanisms will be created between regional and national institutions, non-governmental organizations and donors involved in the water and sanitation sector.

UNDP contribution: $435,000. Funds will be used for training, equipment and personnel. Executed by the Department for Economic and Social Development.

Interregional Projects

INT/92/400—UNDP will work toward enhancing the relevance, quality and effectiveness of national and technical assistance programmes which respond to the HIV epidemic. Community-based methods will be designed for monitoring and evaluating the impact of HIV intervention programmes. Development partners such as non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and donors will be involved in identifying and supporting effective means for responding to the epidemic. The long-term aim will be to develop policies, strategies and programmes to limit further transmission of the virus and minimize its socio-economic impact on families and communities.

UNDP contribution: $2.6 million. Funds will be used for consultancy services, and sub-contracts with recognized non-governmental organizations and research institutes. Executed by UNDP's Office of Project Services. (OPS)

INT/92/209—Many developing countries are already making efforts to integrate environmental considerations into their development activities. The resources for this project will enable UNDP to assist governments by dispatching consultants, arranging workshops, providing links to experts, and conducting short-term training in support of sustainable development.

UNDP contribution: $750,000. Funds will be used for short-term consultancies, and workshops. Executed by OPS.

INT/92/027—Several developing countries have undertaken human development initiatives. At the request of countries undertaking such initiatives, UNDP will provide technical assistance in such areas as elections, governance, decentralization, and human rights. It will develop guidelines and appraisal techniques to incorporate human development into operational activities. In addition, the project will enhance the human development capacity of UNDP field offices.

UNDP contribution through a Trust Fund from Sweden: $1,000,000. Cost-sharing from the Government of Canada: $200,000. Funds will provide international and national consultants in socio-economic development. Training workshops and seminars will also be provided. Subcontracts will be awarded to research institutions. Executed by OPS.

INT/92/475—The private sector now plays a central role in the development strategies of many countries. One of the prime goals of this project is to make available to governments the expertise needed for the establishment of a favorable environment conducive to private investment and business development.

Specialized advice will be offered to requesting governments on the development of appropriate policies and the strengthening of public sector institutions dealing with the private sector. The project will provide specialists for the identification of problem areas in the existing legislative, institutional and regulatory structure of the country.

UNDP contribution: $910,000. Funds will be used for training and consultants to review existing business conditions and formulate new approaches. Executed by participating governments and OPS.

INT/92/476—This project will further UNDP's capabilities in engaging the services of high-level part-time volunteer private sector advisers from the business community to assist governments. The expertise of prominent private sector advisers will be provided to Resident Representatives in 30 selected countries.

UNDP contribution: $610,000. Funds will be used for volunteer advisers to UNDP's Division for Private Sector in Development in New York, honorariums of 30 volunteer advisers in selected countries, and expansion of the UNISTAR programme. Executed by participating governments and OPS.

INT/92/477 - Governments worldwide are adopting strategies to promote the development of entrepreneurship and are, at the same time, assigning a central role to the private sector in achieving their development goals. This project will support the development of innovative approaches to promoting the private sector. One or more pilot projects will be carried out in each of the four areas of concentration in UNDP's Division for Private Sector in Development: business development, privatization, capital market development, and creation of an enabling environment for business.

UNDP contribution: $670,000. Funds will be used for consultants to develop new concepts, formulate projects and evaluate results. Executed by participating governments and OPS.

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Human Development